



## **To America and Back Again** ***Crossing the Pond with your Swedish Ancestors***

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This class aims to help you better understand basic strategy for tracing your emigrant ancestors back to their parish in Sweden. It also explains what each important record type typically contains and why they are important.

### **HOME AND FAMILY SOURCES**

Interview family members. Ask if anyone has pictures, postcards, letters, passports or other documents relating to your immigrant. These aren't crucial, but they may be just the clue you need to find your ancestor's hometown in Sweden.

### **US CENSUS RESEARCH**

Good US Research starts with Census. Censuses will provide a foundation for further research. These records may include:

- Family Information
- Residence in America over time
- Approximate age
- Immigration year (included in the 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses)
- Naturalization information (included in the 1870, 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses)

[United States Census](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

### **NATURALIZATION RECORDS**

From 1855 to 1922, women obtained derivative citizenship based on the citizenship of her husband. From 1907 to 1922 a woman could lose their citizenship status by marrying a non-resident. These records are held at the state level and several states can be found online. These records may include:

- Relationships and Residence
- Age and Physical Description
- Birthday and Place
- Immigration information

[United State Naturalization and Citizenship](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

[United States Naturalization Online Genealogy Records](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Tool

## US DRAFT CARDS

World War I Draft Cards: all males in the U.S. ages 21-45 were registered between the years 1917 and 1918.

World War II Draft Cards: all males in the U.S. ages 18-64 were registered in 1942.

These records may include:

- Name
- Residence
- Birth date and place
- Age

[United States, World War I Draft Registration Cards](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

[United States, World War II Draft Registration Cards](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

## VITAL RECORDS

Most vital records aren't kept statewide until the late 1800s or early 1900s. Other records that include vital information include newspapers and grave markers.

These records may include:

- Birthdate
- Birthplace
- Name of Parents or Spouse

[United States Vital Records](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

[United States Newspapers](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

[United States Cemeteries](#) – FamilySearch Article

## SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH RECORDS

In Sweden, your ancestors were part the state Lutheran church. In America, many Swedish immigrants found a Lutheran church like their church in Sweden. Some of the Swedish American Church records are available on [Ancestry](#).

Record types include:

### *Baptism*

- Name and Gender
- Name of the Parents
- Birth Date and Place

### *Marriage*

- Name and Age
- Name and Age of the Spouse
- Marriage Date and Place

### *Burial*

- Name, Age, and Gender
- Death Date and Place

### *Member List*

- Name, Age, and Gender
- Birth and Baptism Date and Place
- Marriage Date and Place
- Arrival Date and Place
- Departure Place

[Swedish American Church Records](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION DATABASES

These include Port records, passenger lists, travel agent letters, passport records, sailor home records, etc. Many databases are available on Ancestry including the following:

- [Sweden, Emigrants Registered in Church Books, 1783-1991](#) – Ancestry
- [Swedish Emigration Records 1783-1951](#) – Ancestry
- [Gothenburg, Sweden, Passenger Lists, 1869-1951](#) – Ancestry
- [New York, Passenger and Crew Lists \(including Castle Garden and Ellis Island\), 1820-1957](#) – Ancestry

[Swedish Emigration Databases and Indexes](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

[Sweden Emigration and Immigration](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

## FINDING YOUR EMIGRANT IN SWEDISH CHURCH BOOKS

The following FamilySearch Wiki articles are helpful references to help you better understand how to begin research in Sweden.

[Sweden Church Records](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

[Sweden Household Examination Records \(Husförhörslängder\)](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Article

[Sweden Guided Research](#) – FamilySearch Wiki Tool

## QUICK REFERENCE TABLE

Desired Information	Records
Immigration Year	Census Naturalization Record Passenger Lists
Approximate Age	Census Grave Markers Vital Records
Birthplace or Hometown	Swedish American Church Records Vital Records Naturalization Record Draft Cards Emigration Databases Census (typically country only)
Birthdate	Grave Markers Vital Records Swedish American Church Records Naturalization Records
Relationships	Census Draft Cards Naturalization Records Vital Records
Travel Companions	Passenger Lists Emigration Databases